

These are all basic budgetary authorizations on which I hope we can agree. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

My remaining amendments include a number of what I can call, I believe without challenge, "good government" provisions. These provisions will ensure that the Director of National Intelligence has the authority he needs to manage the intelligence community and will ensure that American taxpayers are actually getting the best bang for their buck and not wasting billions and billions of dollars, which I have addressed on the floor previously.

The next amendment is No. 5388. What is this good government amendment? This amendment is aimed at discouraging cost overruns on intelligence satellites and other expensive intelligence programs and is modeled after the longstanding Nunn-McCurdy provisions that apply to Department of Defense major acquisitions.

Last week I stated on the floor that billions and billions and billions—I won't tell you how many because it is classified—of dollars have been wasted on overhead programs because they were not effectively managed.

The next amendment, No. 5389, requires the DNI to conduct vulnerability assessments of our major systems used by the intelligence community. This provision has been in the past two intelligence authorization bills. It requires the DNI to conduct initial and subsequent periodic vulnerability assessments of each intelligence community major system. These assessments should identify system vulnerabilities and exploitation potentials and should make recommendations for reducing risks.

We all know there are those who seek to do us ill who have the ability to compromise many of our programs. Those of us who are familiar with it know how many ways this can happen. I am not going to give anybody any ideas by telling them how to do it. Too many people already know. If we have learned anything during this election cycle, it is that the American people are tired of having their money wasted. They are demanding better spending habits and better accountability from their Government, which brings me to my next amendment, accountability reviews by the Director of National Intelligence. Amendment No. 5390 allows the DNI to conduct accountability reviews of elements of the intelligence community or personnel of such element in relation to a significant failure or deficiency within the intelligence community.

My amendment, agreed to by the Intelligence Committee, would strengthen the DNI's authority and influence in this area, as well as congressional oversight. This amendment confirms the DNI's ability to recommend disciplinary action against persons within the Office of the DNI who have failed to measure up to expectations and are under his jurisdiction. I believe this is a reasonable place to start.

The next one is a future-year budget plan, amendment No. 5391. I think it is reasonable for Congress and our intelligence community to stop wasting billions of dollars on intelligence programs that prove too costly to complete. How does this happen? One reason is that we have never required the intelligence community to show us the full cost of these expensive programs in the budget. My fifth amendment would ensure that this would not happen again.

Now, I will tell the occupant of the chair and my fellow Intelligence Committee member, the distinguished Senator from Virginia, as well as the chairman of the committee who has staff who sits in as frequently as he can on our Intelligence Committee oversight hearings, that there are many wonderful programs that come to us with maybe a couple-hundred-million-dollar budget expenditure the first year. But when you look out to the future years, that number goes up, potentially swallowing the entire intelligence portion of the budget.

I think we in Congress ought to say: Wait a minute. Before we spend that first couple hundred million dollars, tell us what the cost is going to be and what it is going to take out of the budget in future years to accommodate it.

This amendment would require the intelligence community to provide Congress with a future-year intelligence plan that is a 5-year budget and a long-term budget projection that covers 10 years beyond the future intelligence plan. These requirements would ensure that Congress would not appropriate or legislate in the dark without knowing what these wonderful new ideas—and there are some great ideas—are going to cost in the future and how we are going to pay for them.

Next, my final good government provision, No. 5392, requires annual personnel level assessments for the intelligence community. As with most all of my amendments, the provision has been included in the last two intelligence authorization bills.

So why the need for this amendment? These assessments will help Congress get a better sense of the personnel growth in the IC before we mark up annual authorization bills. For some time now both the Senate and House Intelligence Committees have been concerned with rising personnel growth in the IC.

Finally, I have also just filed an amendment relating to a classified technology demonstration program. I talked about that last week. My amendment, which has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate and has been passed by both bodies in the past, will ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars that have been wasted through poor management and oversight will not be followed by more in the future.

This amendment, as I described last week, would say that before the Na-

tional Reconnaissance Organization embarks on spending billions of dollars on a program, it needs to do a demonstration program in the millions of dollars category to see if all the systems work so that we have a good idea before we get a system that has wasted billions and billions of dollars to find out only then that it can't work.

I think Congress has a reasonably high expectation of the DNI and of his ability to reform the intelligence community, but we cannot expect great results if we don't give the authorities and the support he needs to demand performance and accountability. My amendments will give him these authorities and will also allow Congress to perform our real effective oversight duties.

These amendments have been vetted with the Intelligence Committees over the past 2 years and most were contained in the 2008 Intelligence Authorization Act that passed both Houses of Congress. I believe and I think my colleagues' votes over the past 2 years have shown that they make sense and are reasonable.

If there is no consideration of including these amendments or simply allowing a vote on the budget amendment, which is the most important of all, then I am left with little choice but to continue to object to any UC agreements on this bill.

I thank my distinguished colleagues, the Chair, and the ranking member, for listening to my comments, and I look forward to being able to work out with them a reasonable accommodation of these very important matters that I think are essential to ensuring effective intelligence oversight of the money that we spend in the National Intelligence Program.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 660 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.